DARK HORSE
COMICS
DARK HORSE COMICS 23
$2.50 US
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COMICS' GREATEST WORLD
ALIENS: MONDO PEST
GILROY - CARMEN
THE MACHINE: UNDER MY SKIN
LUKE - COBB - MORALES

DARK HORSE #23
COMICS®

THE MACHINE: UNDER MY SKIN 1

PART 1 OF 2
SCRIPT: ERIC LUKE
PENCILS: HOWARD COBB
INKS: MARK MORALES
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO
COLORS: RACHELLE MENASHE

ALIENS: MONDO PEST 15

PART 2 OF 3
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ART: RONNIE DEL CARMEN
LETTERER: STEVE DUTRO
COLORS: MATTHEW HOLLINGSWORTH
STORY EDITOR: RYDER WINDHAM

COVER LINE ART: TED NAIFEH
COVER COLORS: FRANK LOPEZ
EDITORS: RANDY STRADLEY, EDWARD MARTIN III
DESIGN: SCOTT TICE
ORIGINAL ALIEN DESIGN: H.R. GIGER

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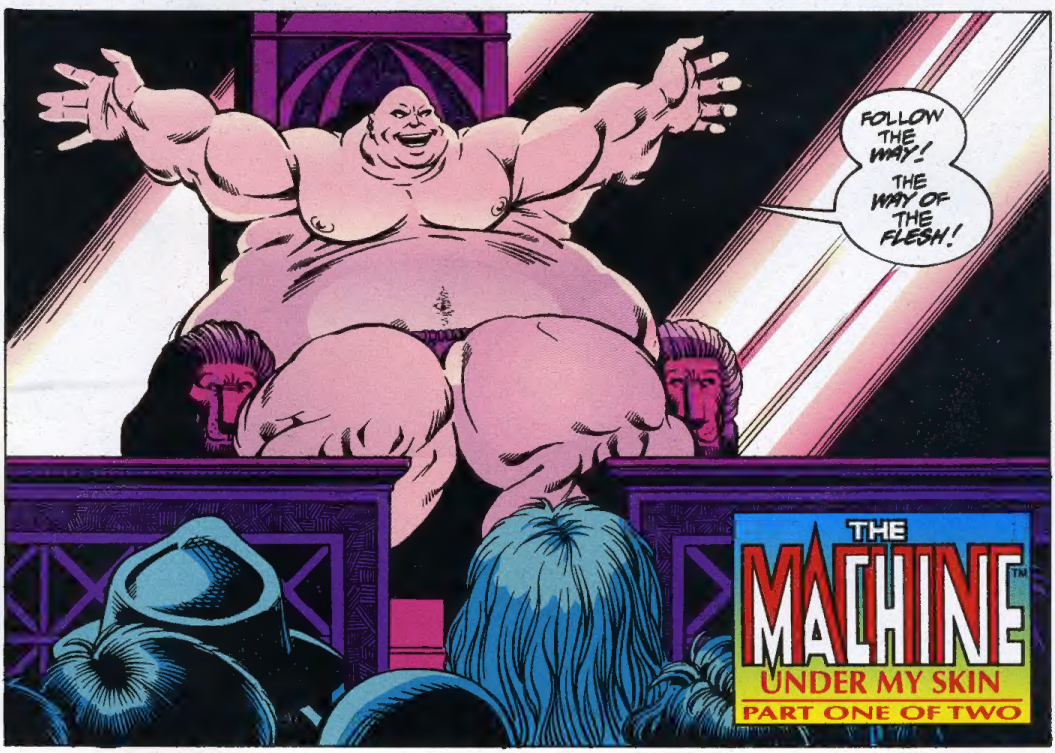
Printed in Canada

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

YOU ARE WITH ME! FOLLOW THE PATH!

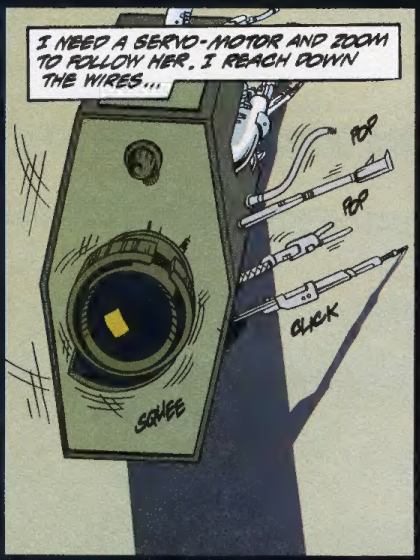

FOLLOW THE WAY!
THE WAY OF THE FLESH!
THE MACHINE™
UNDER MY SKIN
PART ONE OF TWO

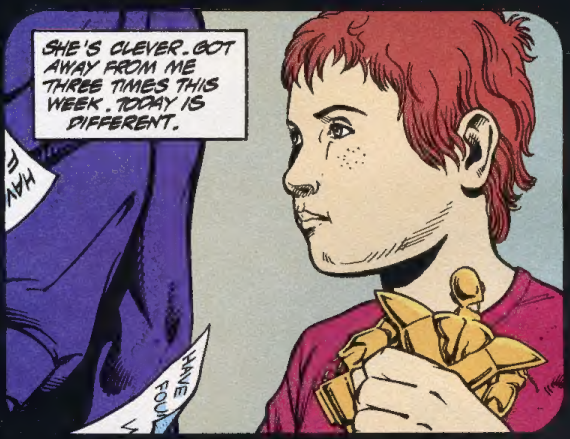
YOU READY?
PROMOTION TIME. GO FOR IT.
HOLD IT, FAT BOY! YOU'RE WANTED FOR MURDER!
AND THESE TWO AREN'T GOING HOME IN BODY BAGS, NEITHER.
YOU POOR LAMBS. YOU MUST BE SO LONELY. SO... SCARED.

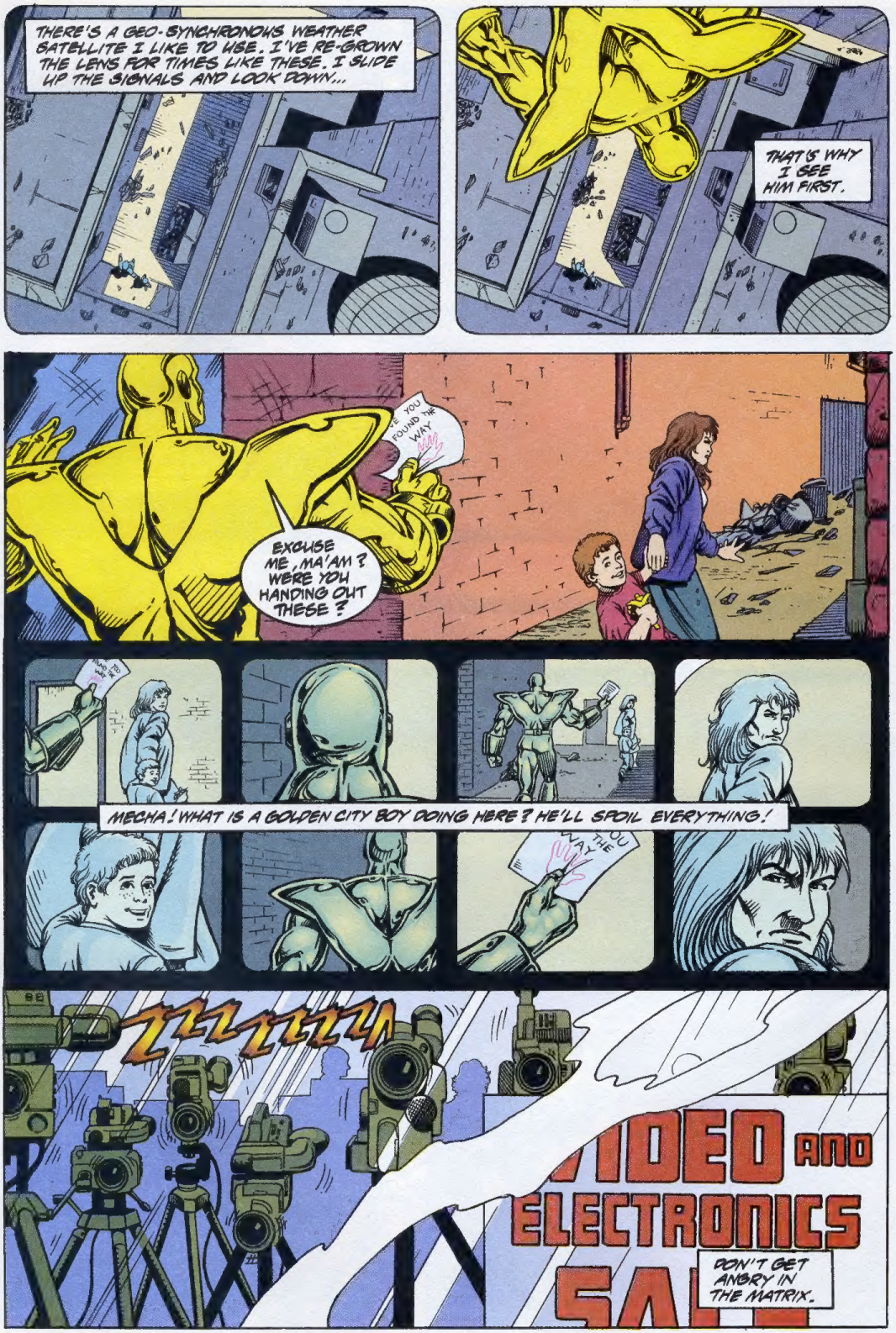
REED, MY GOD... MY ARM!
HE'S... HE'S RIGHT.
REED! HELP MEEE!
CRACK SNAP
BAM
I'M... NOT ALONE.

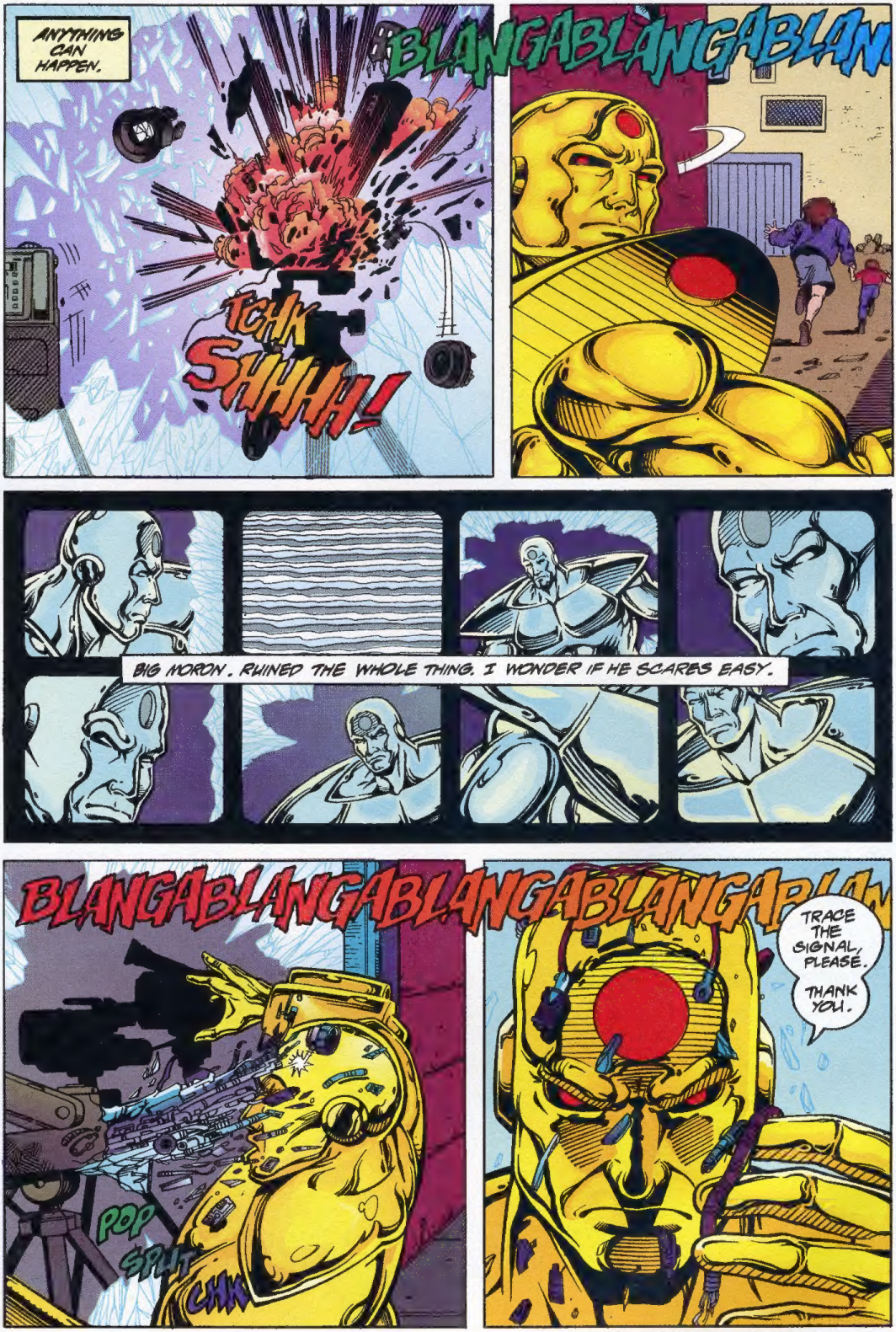
9:15. SHE'S ON MAIN, HEADING TOWARD OAKDALE.

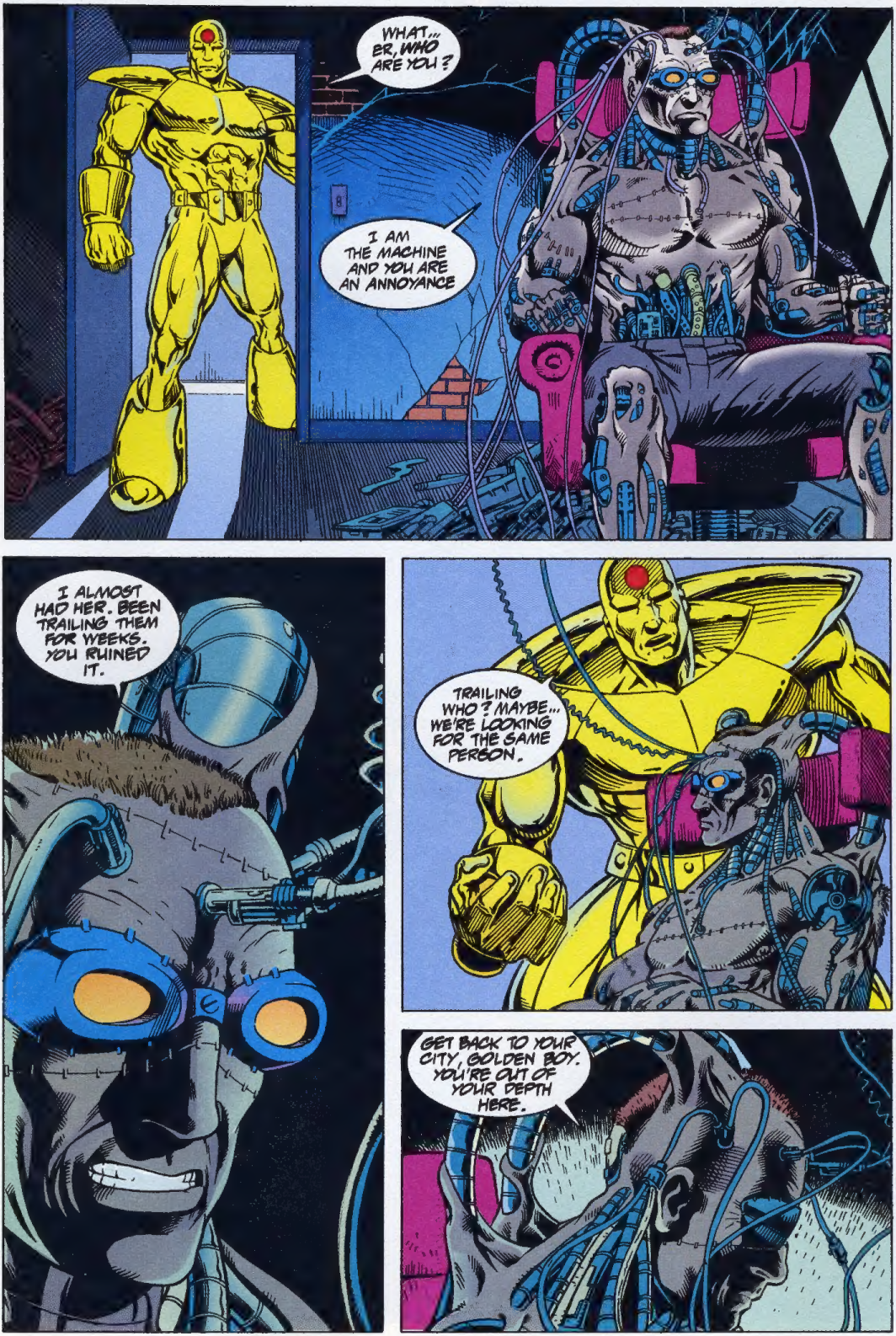
I SWITCH TO THE CAMERA AT THE AUTO TELLER ON THE CORNER.

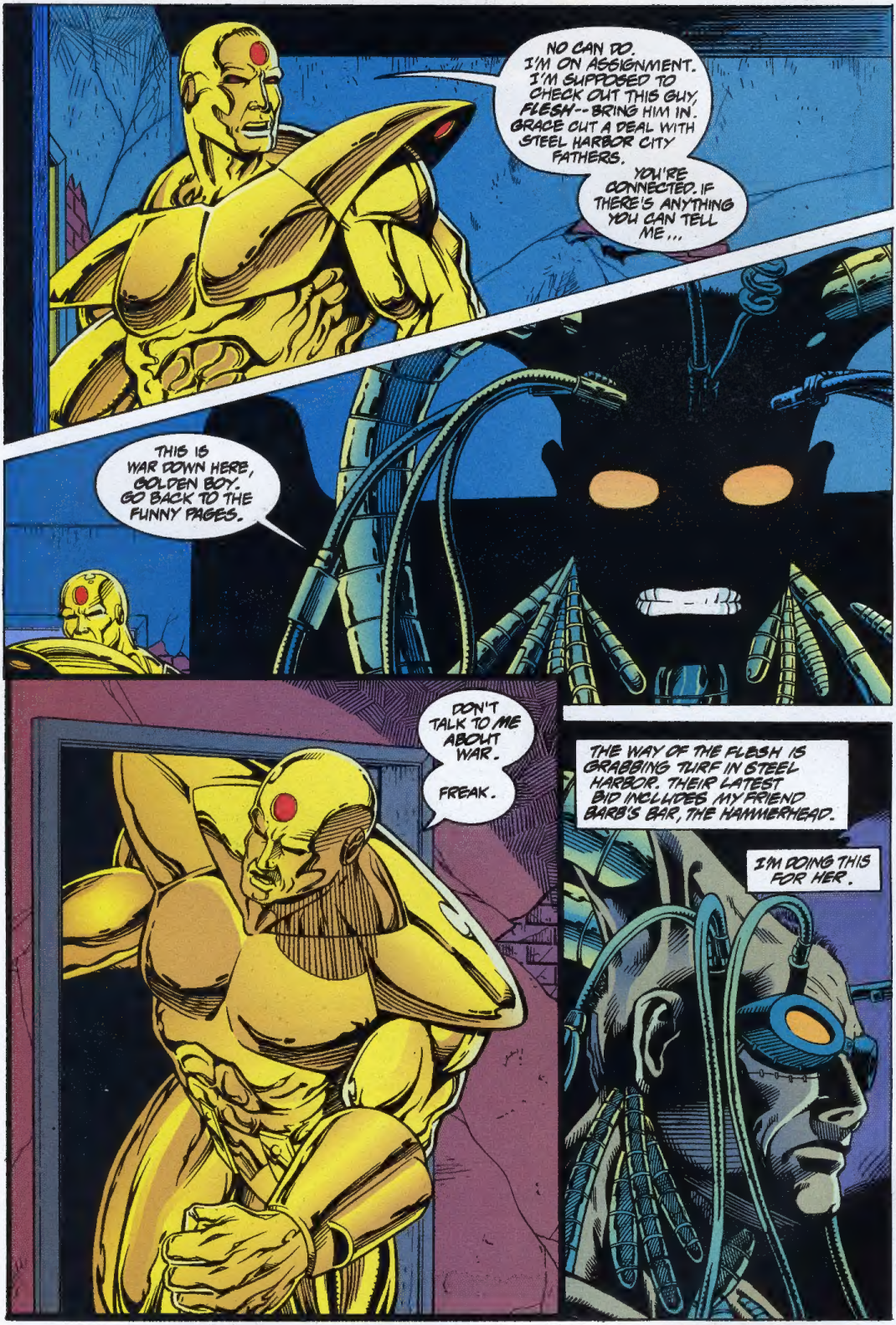





THERE'S A GEO-SYNCHRONOUS WEATHER SATELLITE I LIKE TO USE. I'VE RE-GROWN THE LENS FOR TIMES LIKE THESE. I SLIDE UP THE SIGNALS AND LOOK DOWN...
THAT'S WHY I SEE HIM FIRST.
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM? WERE YOU HANDING OUT THESE?
MECHA! WHAT IS A GOLDEN CITY BOY DOING HERE? HE'LL SPOIL EVERYTHING!
VIDEO AND ELECTRONICS
DON'T GET ANGRY IN THE MATRIX.


ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN.
TCHK SHHHH!
BLANGABLANGABLAN
BIG MORON. RUINED THE WHOLE THING. I WONDER IF HE SCARES EASY.
BLANGABLANGABLANGABLANGABLAN
POP
SPLIT
CHK
TRACE THE SIGNAL, PLEASE.
THANK YOU.


WHAT... ER, WHO ARE YOU?
I AM THE MACHINE AND YOU ARE AN ANNOYANCE
I ALMOST HAD HER. BEEN TRAILING THEM FOR WEEKS. YOU RUINED IT.
TRAILING WHO? MAYBE... WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE SAME PERSON.
GET BACK TO YOUR CITY, GOLDEN BOY. YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR DEPTH HERE.

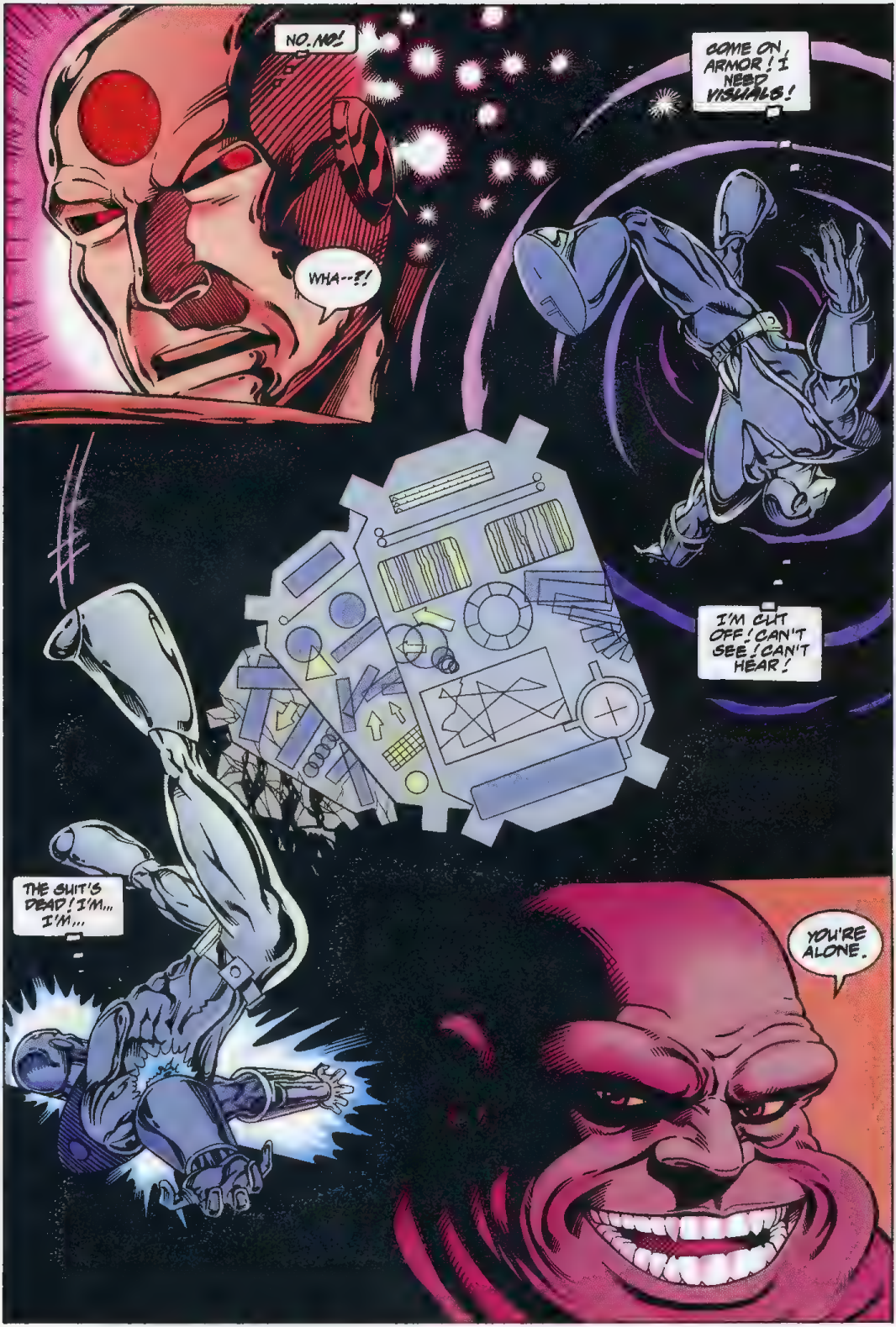

NO CAN DO. I'M ON ASSIGNMENT. I'M SUPPOSED TO CHECK OUT THIS GUY, FLESH--BRING HIM IN. GRACE CUT A DEAL WITH STEEL HARBOR CITY FATHERS.
YOU'RE CONNECTED. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN TELL ME...
THIS IS WAR DOWN HERE, GOLDEN BOY. GO BACK TO THE FUNNY PAGES.
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT WAR.
FREAK.
THE WAY OF THE FLESH IS GRABBING TURF IN STEEL HARBOR. THEIR LATEST BID INCLUDES MY FRIEND BARB'S BAR, THE HAMMERHEAD.
I'M DOING THIS FOR HER.

THE CULT IS DANGEROUS. STRANGE STORIES: COPS SHOOTING THEMSELVES.
MECHA WANTS TO GO IN FIRST, LET HIM.
I'M NO HERO.
HELLO? IS THIS BUILDING OCCUPIED?

I'VE BEEN VESTED WITH THE LEGAL AUTHORITY...
...TO EXTRICATE--

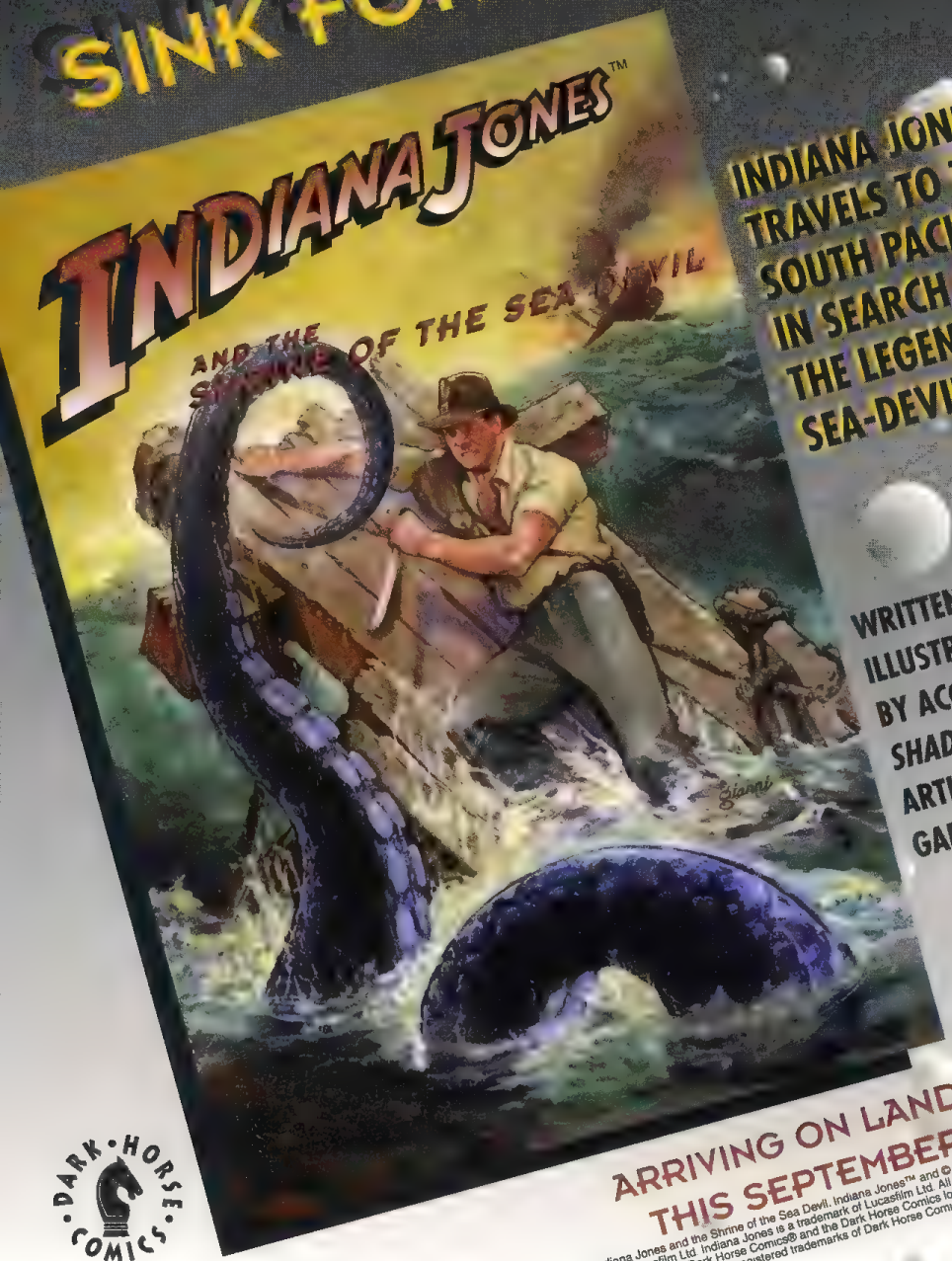
MY GOD...

YES?


NO. NO!
WHA--?!
COME ON, ARMOR! I NEED VISUALS!
I'M CUT OFF! CAN'T SEE! CAN'T HEAR!
THE SUIT'S DEAD! I'M... I'M...
YOU'RE ALONE.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

THE DEPTHS TO WHICH HE'LL SINK FOR ADVENTURE!



INDIANA JONES TRAVELS TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC IN SEARCH OF THE LEGENDARY SEA-DEVIL!

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY ACCLAIMED SHADOW ARTIST GARY GIANNI!

ARRIVING ON LAND THIS SEPTEMBER!

DARK HORSE COMICS

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She's got Cindy's eyes, Elle's legs, Christy's hair, and Ali's left hook!

LEGEND™

John Byrne's

BABE™

DARK HORSE COMICS®

MAKE THE BREAK

LEGEND HAS IT!

Takin' on the world with a wink and a smile this July!
If she can't get you to Make The Break, no one can!

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MONDO!
G'WAN-- GET OUTTA HERE!
GO! GO!
WAIT! UNCLE HANK!
ALIENS™
MONDO PEST - PART 2
I...WH...
DO IT...

BRAKOW
NOOO!
HISSSSSSS
BRAKA BRAKA
BRAKA
BRAKA BRAKA

YOU LUNATIC! YOU KILLED FOUR MEN!
THEY WERE DEAD THE MINUTE THE BUGS GRABBED 'EM, AND YOU KNOW IT. SHUT UP AND DRIVE!
SKRRASSSS
NNG!
YOU KILLED UNCLE HANK.
I HATE YOU.
WELL, I'M MAKING BIG POINTS TONIGHT!
PAIGE TO ORYZA COMPOUND. WE'RE COMING IN. OVER.
PLOWRIGHT HERE.
SORRY, PAIGE... YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE OTHER PLANS.

I WON'T RISK COMPROMISING COMPOUND SECURITY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SIMON? WE'VE GOT INJURED! MOVE THE BARRICADE! NOW!
NO CAN DO. YOU TURN AWAY NOW OR I'LL ACTIVATE THE MISSLE SYSTEM.
DAMN IT! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, SIMON!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE ALIENS ARE...
THONK
WHAT TH--?!
AHH!
HOLY ...

...MOTHER...
KRASSH
YAAHH!

HSSSSS
PLOWRIGHT? WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? PLOWRIGHT?!
MOVE OVER, LADY.
OOF!
WHAT ARE YOU?
THE PARTY'S STARTED WITHOUT US...
AND INVITED OR NOT, I'M SURE AS HELL...
SCREECH
...NOT GONNA...
...MISS IT!
VROOM
VROOM
VROOOOOOOOOM
KRASH

KRUNCH
AAIEE!
FSSSSS
WHAA!
KONK
SORRY I'M LATE
I GUESS THE FIRST DANCE GOES...
... TO YOU.

FRAK
MONDO!
HUH ?
HISSSSS
SCREEE
SORRY, BUDDY! SHE'S MY DATE!
HMM. LOOK LIKE THE JEALOUS TYPES.
OKAY GIRLS. THAT'S IT.

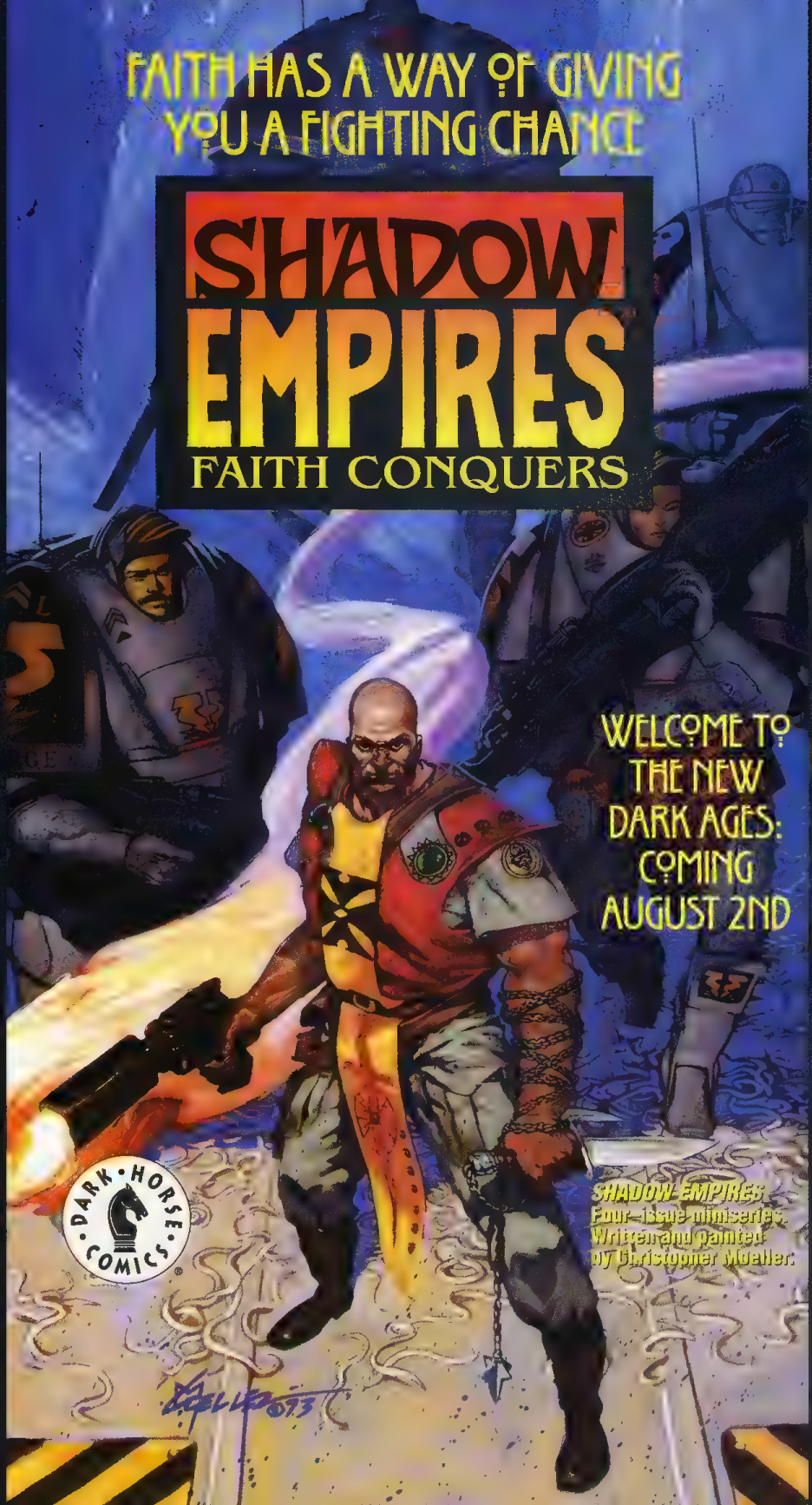
...PARTY'S OVER
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
NATE!
HEY, KID...?
CRUNCH
DAMN.

FWOOSH
PHEW
SHINK
PISSST
Di Fate
LAGER
GLUG GLUG GLUG
WHERE ARE YOU--?
BACK TO THE HIVE TO GET THE KID..
... DEAD OR ALIVE.
YOU... YOU REALLY ARE A HERO.
HERO NOTHIN'!
I'VE GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH THOSE BASTARDS!

WELL, WELL, WELL...
A MANMADE EGG FARM... SIXTEEN COUNT... HMM...
ONLY ONE HARD-BOILED BABY LEFT. TOO BAD...
...I LIKE MINE SCRAMBLED!
FWOOSH
SKRIKKT
UH-OH...

LHHH.
LET'S SEE,,, LANDED ON ONE, SHOT A COUPLE WITH COLONISTS, RAN ONE OVER, BASHED ONE IN THE HEAD, IMPALED ONE, AND BURNED ONE,,, THAT'S SIX OR SEVEN DOWN OUTTA SIXTEEN, SO THAT LEAVES... DAMN!
RAN OUT OF FINGERS!
SALLY

CONTINUED...


FAITH HAS A WAY OF GIVING YOU A FIGHTING CHANCE
SHADOW EMPIRES
FAITH CONQUERS
WELCOME TO THE NEW DARK AGES: COMING AUGUST 2ND
DARK HORSE COMICS
SHADOW EMPIRES
Four-issue miniseries.
Written and painted by Christopher Moeller.
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BORNE FROM THE BOWELS OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE.

INSTANT PIANO™

A BOOK OF NEW YORK JEWISH ANGST BY FIVE GUYS WHO HAVE LEFT NEW YORK.

KYLE BAKER IS BLACK.

STEPHEN DESTEFANO IS ITALIAN.

MARK BADGER IS HALF WASP, HALF ARMENIAN.

ROBBIE BUSCH AND **EVAN DORKIN** ARE ACTUAL JEWS!

MAKE THE BREAK™

THIS FOUR-ISSUE EXERCISE IN FUTILITY BEGINS IN AUGUST.

DARK HORSE COMICS®

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Whiskey and the Devil are looking for a place called home...

His name is **JOHNNY DYNAMITE**

From the back alleys of Chicago, to the glittering casinos of Las Vegas, a man called Johnny Dynamite is on a bloody trail of death.

He is looking for vengeance.

And he just might get it.

"Johnny Dynamite is tough, mean, and very strange - everything a good American comic book should be!"
-Frank Miller

Four killer issues by Max Collins and Terry Beatty, starting this September.

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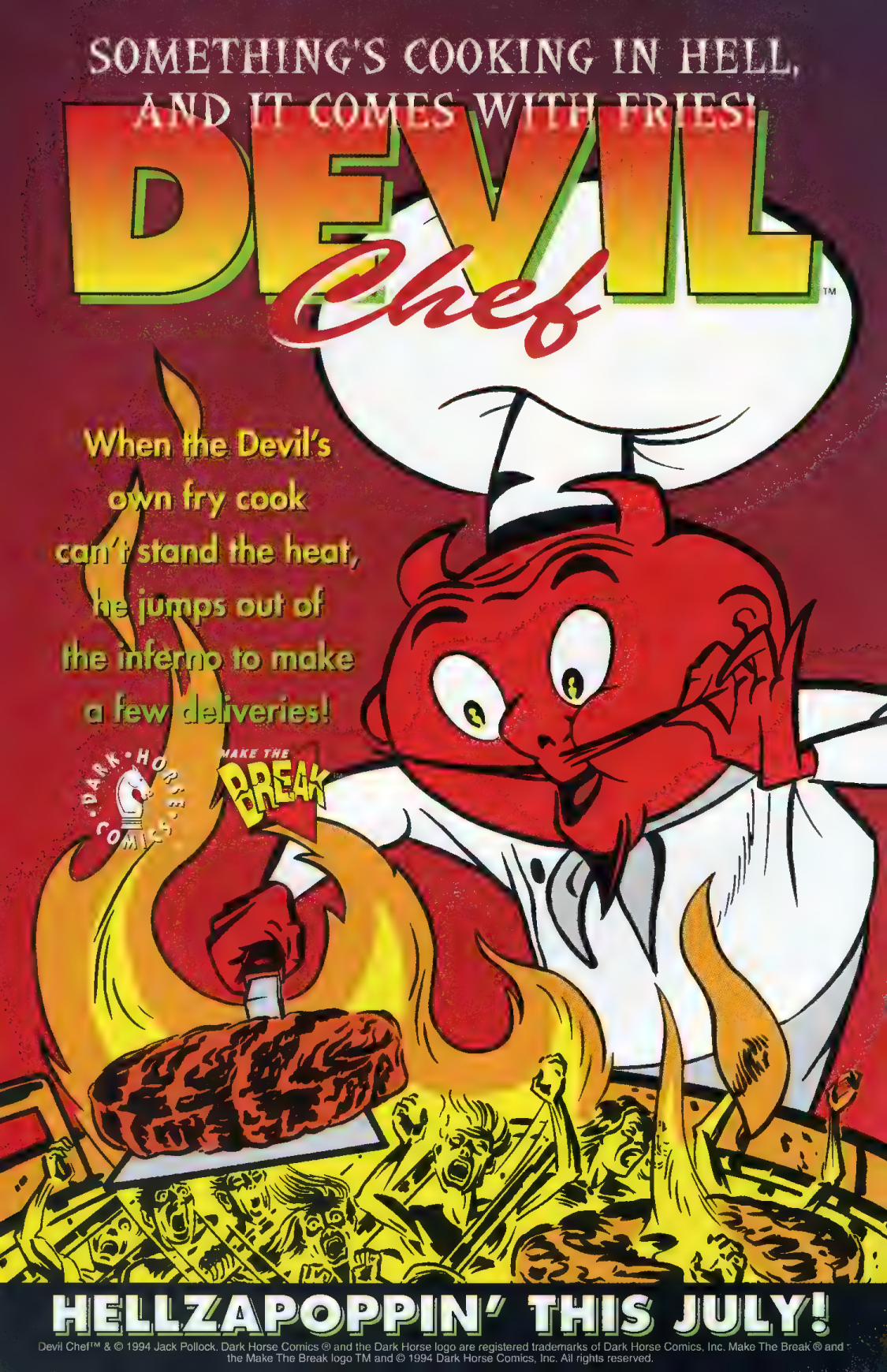
SOMETHING'S COOKING IN HELL,
AND IT COMES WITH FRIES!
DEVIL
Chef
When the Devil's own fry cook can't stand the heat, he jumps out of the inferno to make a few deliveries!
DARK HORSE COMICS
MAKE THE BREAK
HELLZAPOPPIN' THIS JULY!

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GHOST™

SHE LOOKS LIKE A DREAM AND PACKS AN AUTOMATIC!

COMICS' GREATEST WORLD™

SHIPS IN JULY!

DARK HORSE COMICS®

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FINISH LINE

Last month we began our examination of editing, and what it is that comic-book editors do. Since the editorial staff at Dark Horse is, to say the least, a mixed bag (we have two editors originally from DC, two from Comico, one from Comico *and* DC, two from Fantagraphics, a couple who cut their teeth at Eclipse and Majestic, plus four, including myself, who have never worked on staff at any other publisher), editorial methods, processes, and tricks have been culled from across the industry. And, since Dark Horse publishes such a wide assortment of titles and types of books, editors often tailor their editorial styles to the book rather than the other way around.

Michael Eury, newly appointed group editor of Dark Horse's company-owned line, puts a great deal of importance on pre-script conferences with writers. "Since continuity-oriented superhero comics are my editorial bread and butter, it's important for me to be involved with story development. Not only does that type of planning help the entire editorial process move smoothly, it also ensures that a shared continuity is maintained."

Editor **Dan Thorsland**, who handles the bulk of the Lucasfilm-owned ***Star Wars*** titles says that licensed books require much the same kind of approach. "A pre-script conference is where I do most of my editing because the ***Star Wars*** books are very reference-intensive."

The flip-side to this is editor **Robert Boyd**'s approach to editing creator-owned books: "There's no such thing as a typical creator-owned book. Each creator wants something different from their editor—from zero creative input to total involvement at every stage. Editing a creator-owned book is more a matter of negotiation and feedback rather than fiat. You can't replace a creator on a book that he or she owns, therefore, a lot of 'editing' is done at the proposal stage."

Editorial coordinator **Bob Cooper** adds: "An editor's level of input on a creator-owned book depends on how much the creator trusts them." Bob builds that trust by paying attention to, "Details, details, details. The editor has to keep an eye on everything."

One trick Bob uses after the story and art editing is completed is to read the book from back to front when he does the final proof. "That way I can concentrate on grammar, punctuation, etc., without getting caught up in the story."

Licensed book group editor **Ryder Windham** edits each stage of production. "When I read a script, I look for dialogue that is consistent with the characters, and smooth panel/scene transitions. When the pencilled pages arrive, I look to see how clearly the *pictures* tell the story, and attempt to eviscerate any dialogue/image redundancy. When the pages are lettered, if my eye reads the balloons in the wrong order, the dialogue and/or the art must be revised."

Finally, when the inks are completed, Ryder goes over the issue one more time. "I read the inked pages as if I've never even *heard* of the script or the lettered pencils—as if I've just purchased the comic and I want my money's worth."

"It's important to allow each person in the creative process enough time to do their best work *and* deliver it on schedule," says editor in chief **Diana Schutz**, who takes a "big picture" approach to editing. "An editor is very much like a project manager—or even a parent. The editor should *care* about every book just as if it's his or her child. Good books reflect that commitment."

As you can see, editing styles can vary from book to book, as well as editor to editor. It's the constant challenge to find both good *and* timely solutions to a tremendous variety of problems that makes the job so interesting and, if you do the job well and you truly care about the books, so rewarding.

Excuse me now, I have children to tend.

—Randy Stradley
creative director

JULY CHECKLIST

SHIPPING JULY 5
- ❑ ALIENS: COLONIAL MARINES #10
- ❑ BUBBLEGUM CRISIS: GRAND MAL #4
- ❑ HAMMER OF GOD: BUTCH #2
- ❑ IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND 007: SHATTERED HELIX #2
- ❑ WILL TO POWER #4

SHIPPING JULY 12
- ❑ CONCRETE: KILLER SMILE #1
- ❑ DARK HORSE INSIDER #32
- ❑ DARK HORSE PRESENTS #87
- ❑ GHOST SPECIAL #1
- ❑ INDIANA JONES AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE #2
- ❑ OUT OF THE VORTEX #10
- ❑ THE SHADOW #2
- ❑ WILL TO POWER #5

SHIPPING JULY 19
- ❑ ALIENS: STRONGHOLD #3
- ❑ BADGER: SHATTERED MIRROR #1
- ❑ CARAVAN KIDD PART 3 #3
- ❑ DEVIL CHEF
- ❑ ENEMY #3
- ❑ GRENDEL TALES: THE DEVIL IN OUR MIDST #3
- ❑ STAR WARS: DROIDS #4
- ❑ WILL TO POWER #6

SHIPPING JULY 26
- ❑ BABE #1
- ❑ BADGER: ZEN POP FUNNY-ANIMAL VERSION #1
- ❑ CLASSIC STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE #2
- ❑ DARK HORSE COMICS #23
- ❑ THE DIRTY PAIR BOOK THREE: A PLAGUE OF ANGELS (TRADE PAPERBACK COLLECTION)
- ❑ HELLHOUNDS: PANZER COPS #6
- ❑ JONNY DEMON #3
- ❑ MARTHA WASHINGTON GOES TO WAR #3
- ❑ THE MASK: THE MOVIE #1
- ❑ PREDATOR: INVADERS FROM THE FOURTH DIMENSION
- ❑ WHITE LIKE SHE #3
- ❑ WILL TO POWER #7

JIM CARREY
THE MASK
CAMERON DIAZ
MIKE RICHARDSON, CHARLES RUSSELL and MICHAEL De LUCA
NEW LINE CINEMA
FROM ZERO TO HERO
JULY 29TH